

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Looks at Opening Trails to Multi-use

Officials at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park are hosting a public meeting to discuss the proposed opening of nearly 11 miles of trail to multi-use. Under the multi-use designation, mountain bikers will be added to the hikers and equestrians allowed on these trails. The purpose of the meeting is to inform the public of what trails are proposed to be opened to multi-use and to receive feedback from the public on this proposal.

The meeting is planned to be held on Monday, October 15, 2001 from 6:30-9:00pm at Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish, located within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park off of Highway 79. It is located approximately one-half mile south of Lake Cuyamaca. All members of the public are invited to attend to learn more about the proposal and to give comments. Should anyone need assistance in gaining access to the building (an historic CCC structure) please contact Jim Burke at (760) 765-3019.

Mountain biking is a recreational activity that has grown in popularity over the years, especially here in San Diego County. The Department of Parks and Recreation views mountain biking as a healthy and fun way to enjoy state parks and supports expanding its use where appropriate. Currently, mountain bikers are allowed to ride only on park fire roads and about six miles of trails. Many bikers enjoy the experience of riding on trails rather than fire roads because of the feeling of closeness to nature.

Early this year the park put together a team consisting of different user groups (hikers, bikers and equestrians) and park staff to evaluate the trails outside of the state wilderness and cultural/natural preserves for possible opening to multi-use. The task of the team was to evaluate 32 miles of trails using criteria found in the Department of Parks and Recreation's Mountain Bike Policy and then make recommendations to the District Superintendent as to what trails they felt could be opened to multi-use. The trails team has presented their recommendations to District Superintendent Dave Van Cleve who will use the input received from the public at the October 15th meeting to help shape the final proposal. "We are confident that we can expand recreational opportunities for mountain bike enthusiasts at Cuyamaca

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while continuing to protect its natural and cultural resources,” Van Cleve said. “In a county with dramatic population growth, it is important that State Parks continue to strike a balance between meeting increased recreational demand and protecting the finite, and exceptional, resources of San Diego’s backcountry.”

For further information on the public meeting, contact Jim Burke at (760) 765-3019.